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# ASK A *C. elegans* EXPERT

a collective cranium of scientists inviting you to ask questions about the excitement of sending an experiment into space!

Ask **your** questions from **April 12 - May 7, 2004**

Begin your website exploration at:

<http://weboflife.nasa.gov> or <http://lifesci.arc.nasa.gov>



Did you know.....

*Caenorhabditis elegans* (*C. elegans*) is a type of very small **WORM**. These nematodes or roundworms are smaller than this period "."!

They eat bacteria and live in your backyard.

*C. elegans* have skin, muscles, a mouth, esophagus, intestines, a nervous and circulatory system just like you!

They have an average life span of 2-3 weeks in their natural environment.

*C. elegans* and humans have many of the same genes. In fact, they were the first animal to have their genome completely sequenced!

*C. elegans* are scheduled to take a ride on the Russian spacecraft Soyuz, to visit the International Space Station on April 19, 2004.

Don't miss your chance to ask NASA scientists all about *C. elegans* in space.

